

MINUTES

OF THE

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION

TELEPHONE MEETING

JULY 13, 2006

WALLACE STATE OFFICE BUILDING
DES MOINES, IOWA

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MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission was called to order by Chairperson Schneider at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 13, 2006 at the Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joan Schneider
Carol Kramer
Lennis Moore
Kim Francisco
Liz Garst

MEMBERS ABSENT

Randy Duncan
Janice Marcantonio

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Kramer to approve the July 13, 2006 NRC agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Garst. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA APPROVED

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Travis Baker, Engineering and Realty Services Bureau, presented the following item.

Bids were opened June 21, 2006 for the following projects:

Trumbull Lake WMA, Clay Co. – Resurfacing of Cabin Road

This project consists of hot mix asphalt paving Cabin Road at Trumbull Lake and other related work as required by the Plans and DNR Construction Inspector. Project is budgeted 100% in Parks and Institutional Roads funds. DOT estimate is \$255,000. Six sets of Plans were issued. Two bids were received.

Tri-State Paving Company	Estherville, IA	\$312,492.00
Blacktop Services Company	Humboldt, IA	\$313,373.76

Staff recommends award of contract to Tri-State Paving, Inc., low bidder.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garst to approve the low bid of Tri-State Paving Company, Estherville, Iowa, in the amount of \$312,492.00 for resurfacing of Cabin Road at Trumball Lake in Clay County. Seconded by Commissioner Moore. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED

Hattie Elston Wildlife Area, Dickinson Co. – Parking Lot at Boat Ramp

This project consists of hot mix asphalt paving of two portions of an existing parking lot in the Hattie Elston Wildlife area and incidental work as required by the Plans and DNR Construction Inspector. Project is budgeted 100% in Marine Fuel Tax. DNR estimate is \$91,000. Six sets of Plans were issued. One bid was received.

Tri-State Paving Company	Estherville, IA	\$106,284.00
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Staff recommends award of contract to Tri-State Paving, Inc., sole bidder.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kramer to approve the bid of Tri-State Paving Company, Estherville, Iowa, in the amount of \$106,284.00 for parking lot paving at Hattie Elston Wildlife Area in Dickinson County. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED

Viking Lake WMA, Montgomery Co. – Grade Stabilization Structures

This project consists of the construction of 22 grade stabilization structures, related intakes, water control structures and incidental work as required by the Plans and DNR Construction Inspector. Project is budgeted 75% in Federal 319 and 25% in Lake Restoration funds. NRCS estimate is \$205,000. Twenty-nine sets of Plans were issued. Two bids were received.

Roger Stewart Co.	Stanton, IA	\$209,489.95
Reilly Construction Co., Inc.	Ossian, IA	\$424,217.82

Staff recommends award of contract to Roger Stewart Co., low bidder.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kramer to approve the low bid of Roger Stewart Co., Stanton, Iowa, in the amount of \$209,489.95 for grade stabilization structures at Viking Lake Wildlife Management Area in Montgomery County. Seconded by Commissioner Moore. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED

Bids were opened June 27, 2006 for the following projects

Riverton WMA, Fremont Co. – Outlet Structure Replacement

This project consists of the removal and replacement of an existing CMP outlet control structure, and incidental work as required by the Plans and DNR Construction Inspector. Project is budgeted 25% in FEMA and 75% Fish and Wildlife Trust funds. DNR estimate is \$71,000. Thirteen sets of Plans were issued. Five bids were received.

TEK Builders, Inc.	Mount Ayr, IA	\$ 84,649.00
Nelson & Rock Contracting, Inc.	Onawa, IA	\$ 90,510.00
Big River Construction Co.	Nebraska City, NE	\$104,889.00
Weaver's, Inc.	Tipton, IA	\$113,355.00
Gus Construction Co., Inc.	Casey, IA	\$136,390.00

Staff recommends award of contract to TEK Builders, Inc., low bidder.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve the low bid of TEK Builders, Inc. of Mount Ayr, Iowa, in the amount of \$84,649.00 for outlet structure replacement at Riverton Wildlife Management Area in Fremont County. Seconded by Commissioner Garst. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED

Red Rock Law Enforcement, Marion Co. – Water Patrol Building

This project consists of the construction of a pre-engineered wood-type, water patrol building as required by the Plans and DNR Construction Inspector. Project is budgeted 100% in Marine Fuel Tax. DNR estimate is \$250,000. Twelve sets of Plans were issued. Three bids were received.

Greiner Buildings, Inc.	Washington, IA	\$238,499.96
The Pro-Line Co., Inc.	New Sharon, IA	\$238,787.10
S & S Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	Marengo, IA	\$273,920.00

Staff recommends award of contract to Greiner Buildings, Inc., low bidder.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kramer to approve the low bid of Greiner Buildings, Inc. of Washington, Iowa, in the amount of \$238,499.96 for a water patrol building at Red Rock in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Garst. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED

LAND ACQUISITION

Jerry Gibson, Engineering and Realty Services Bureau, presented the following item.

Lake Odessa, Louisa County – Cratty Donation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for the acceptance of a donation of a tract of land located approximately 5½ miles east of Wapello at Sand Run adjacent to the Lake Odessa WMA in Section 33, Township 74 North, Range 2 West, Louisa County, Iowa. This approximately 2-acre donation is offered by Larry and Mary Louise Cratty.

Jerry Gibson negotiated the donation.

The property is located on a bluff adjacent to several rural residential/recreational homes. The donors and DNR wildlife biologists would like to see the tract protected from development, and managed as a "bird sanctuary" for song birds and game species. Grantors stipulated as a condition of the donation that hunting not be allowed, and the DNR retain possession in perpetuity. The tract consists of a hardwood forest mix (oak, maple, hickory) and a small open area of grass. The bird species that are observed on the tract are too numerous to list, but include Northern Oriole (Baltimore), Purple Finch, Northern Cardinal, White-breasted Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, Wood Thrush, Brown Thrasher, House Wren, numerous warblers, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Wild Turkey, Red-headed Woodpecker, and many more. Grantors have included a small access lane in the donation.

No fencing or survey costs are anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to accept the donation of approximately two acres of land at Lake Odessa in Louisa County. Seconded by Commissioner Kramer. Motion carried unanimously.

LAND DONATION APPROVED

HONEY CREEK RESORT STATE PARK

Ken Herring, Administrator, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

Approval is requested to acknowledge that Rathbun Lake Resort, Inc. (RLR) is a local, non-profit advisory committee that has agreed to undertake an enormous local fund raising effort to raise 4.0 million dollars towards the Honey Creek Resort State Park. In this endeavor of raising 4.0 million dollars donations of both cash and in-kind materials will be solicited by RLR. RLR has employed the services of Leslie Kline Lukas & associates (LKL) and have completed a feasibility study for raising funds for the project. The report strongly supports the ability for RLR to reach their goal of 4.0 million dollars, and RLR has agreed to negotiate a contract with LKL to assist in these efforts.

Whereas, the legislature appropriated 3 million dollars for the project contingent upon a local non/state funds of 4.0 million could be raised.

In short, the fundraising effort of RLR to generate 4.0 million dollars holds the key to the 3.0 million appropriated by the legislature. This total of 7.0 million dollars is needed immediately if the project is to stay on the projected timeline.

As these gifts are received they will be recognized by RLR who must set up an account to receive the gifts or handle the pledges which may be received over a longer period of time. RLR has agreed to handle this accountability endeavor. In time, all gifts will be received by the NRC for acceptance and recognition.

Secondly, approval is requested to the use of naming rights as a form of recognition for the following items, all which will be constructed components of the new facilities at the Honey Creek Resort State Park:

Conference Center Rooms (3)

Individual Board rooms (3)

Aquatic Center

Bridge

Golf Course Club House

Activities Center Building

Restaurant

Lounge

Lodge Great Room

Cabins (27)

Golf Course

Trail segments

Picnic shelters (2)

Boat Ramp

Swimming Beach

Observation Tower

Dock Facilities & Playground

NRC Approval of naming these individual features must be consistent with the policy recently adapted for recognition of special fund raising for capital projects (Item II. B, #7 of our Policy which reads: "Entities which donate a significant contribution to a capital improvement project or new development may negotiate with DNR regarding naming rights subject to approval by the NRC." Your approval will allow DNR staff to work with RLR and LKL to negotiate acceptable naming opportunities at specific levels of giving.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to acknowledge that Rathbun Lake Resort, Inc. (RLR) has agreed to undertake a local fund raising effort to raise \$4 million dollars towards the Honey Creek Resort State Park and has employed the services of Leslie Kline Lukas & Associates (LKL), and to approve the use of naming rights as a form of recognition of new facilities at the Honey Creek Resort State Park. Seconded by Commissioner Moore. Motion carried unanimously.

FUNDRAISING AND NAMING RIGHTS APPROVED

AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF STORM LAKE

Ken Herring, Administrator, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

Approval is requested for the Department of Natural Resources Department to enter into an agreement with the City of Storm Lake. The purpose is to continue lake dredging operations at Storm Lake (Buena Vista County). This project is being funded through the Endowment for Iowa's Health Account and this project is listed in the DNR's FY 2007 Infrastructure and Capitals Plan. The city is responsible for providing 1-1 match for these dollars. The City of Storm Lake is requesting up to \$500,000.

The City of Storm Lake is following a dredging plan that will require six to ten years to complete.

We recommend that the Department enter into an agreement with the City of Storm Lake for this dredging project

<i>Motion was made by Commissioner Kramer to approve an agreement with the City of Storm Lake for continued dredging operations. Seconded by Commissioner Garst. Motion carried unanimously.</i>
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AGREEMENT APPROVED

AGREEMENT WITH IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Ken Herring, Administrator, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

Approval is requested for the Department of Natural Resources Department to enter into an agreement for two separate studies with Iowa State University for research assessing the benefits, costs and economic impacts of making water quality improvements to 35 high priority Iowa lakes. The purposed work draws heavily on the existing "Iowa Lakes Valuation Project," funded jointly by Iowa DNR and U.S. EPA, which has just completed its four year data collection effort and the extensive five-year lake database collected by Dr. Downing with Iowa DNR funding that includes water chemistry, biological analysis, and watershed data for 129 of Iowa's principle recreation lakes. These projects are being funded through the Endowment for Iowa's Health Account and part of the Lake Water Quality Improvement DNR's FY 2007 Infrastructure and Capitals Plan. The DNR's financial obligation is \$80,500.00 with final reports provided to the DNR by July 31, 2007.

We recommend that the Department enter into an agreement with Iowa State University Lake for these research projects.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve an agreement with Iowa State University for research assessing the benefits, costs and economic impacts of making water quality improvements to 35 high priority Iowa lakes. Seconded by Commissioner Kramer. Motion carried unanimously.

AGREEMENT APPROVED

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Meetings on the dock rules are continuing, and several issues are closer to resolution. Information on the timeline of the dock rules will be out soon.

Diane Ford-Shivvers reported that staff is working with the Governor's Office on appointments to a legislatively mandated committee to explore opportunities and options for sustainable long-term funding for conservation of Iowa's natural resources. The first organized meeting of this committee is July 20. (This date has since been changed to August 9.)

NEXT MEETING DATES

The August 10, 2006 meeting will be at Kent Park in Johnson County.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to adjourn the July 13 NRC telephone meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Moore. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Director

Janice Marcantonio, Chairperson

Randy Duncan, Secretary

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